

Nominate your candidate for the 100 Most Influential

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Volume 13, Number 9

Serving New Jersey's African-American Communities Since 1983

December 11 - December 17, 1996

## INSIDE:

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ADMINISTRATION  
DAWDLING IN AFRICAN  
CRISIS

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RAPE VICTIM  
COMPLAINS ABOUT  
TREATMENT BY NBC

by David Bauer

NEW YORK (AP)—A rape victim whose story was told on *Dateline NBC* last week complained after seeing an advance screening that the documentary is distorted and "fans the flames of racism."

The documentary's producer said Monday she was surprised by the criticism, saying the victim seems to take the show to task for not painting a compassionate portrait of the alleged rapist.

Wednesday's episode of the show was devoted to Karen Pomer, a Santa Monica, CA woman who was raped and held captive at gunpoint for six hours, and subsequently went public with her story because of dissatisfaction with the police investigation.

Maria Shriver narrates "Screams in the Night," which is billed as an effort to "document one woman's journey from crime victim to crusader."

Pomer, in a letter to NBC officials, said she was "publicly disassociating" herself from the show and accused the network of concentrating too much on the racial angle of her assault. She is white and her attacker was black.

"I feel very betrayed by them. I feel very hurt," Pomer said in an interview the Monday before the

See NBC/ page 3

PARADE DIDN'T WANT  
BLACK SANTA

TOLEDO, OH (AP)—Dressed as Santa Claus, Jessie Peck sat in a horse-drawn carriage, ready to join the city's holiday parade. He ended up watching it go by.

Peck said he was ordered out of the lineup because he's black. He said he heard someone say over a walkie-talkie, "Stop the black Santa."

Parade organizers deny the allegation, saying he didn't have permission to appear as Santa.

Peck, a disc jockey at radio station WIMX-FM in Toledo, was to ride on the station's float last Saturday with three co-workers. About 40,000 people watched the two-hour parade.

Peck stated that the float was about to merge into the parade when a young woman stopped him and said he had to get off.

"She never said there was a problem with the float. She never said we didn't have the proper credentials. She didn't have a problem with anyone else except for me," he said. One co-worker was black; the other two were white.

He said the woman did not identify herself or explain why he had to leave the float.

"The next thing I knew I heard a woman shout on the walkie-talkie: 'Stop the black Santa, don't let the black Santa get by you,'" Peck said. "She repeated the phrase three times."

"Peck's claim that he was pulled from the parade because of his race is nonsense," said Citifast, a city-supported nonprofit group that helped organize the parade.

The group said the radio station did not have permission to have a Santa Claus in the parade.

Clyde Roberts, executive vice president of the station, acknowledged that WIMX did not ask parade organizers for permission. The organizers already had a Santa Claus, in the float behind the station's carriage, and wanted only one, he said. He does not believe the incident was racially motivated.

Peck said the incident humiliated him. "Black people live here and pay taxes here. We're part of this city and we want to be represented. It's a nice parade and ... we should be allowed to have a black Santa Claus."

## Newark schools on the way to recovery

by Ron L. Holland

NEWARK—Prior to the state's takeover of the largest school district in NJ, the Newark school system was riddled with scandal, corruption, mismanagement and blatant fraud. From the hierarchy of administration to the lower levels of faculty, numerous district employees and school board members marred the trust of parents, taxpayers and children, oblivious to the trail of deceit.

So significant was the trail, that its obvious effect was evident in the academic performance of the students. In 1993 for example, only 25 percent of the district's 11th grade students could pass all three sections of the High School Proficiency Test (HSPT). Of

the original 3,259 students in the class of 1995, only 438 (13 percent) passed the HSPT in October of 1995, while only 790 (24 percent) passed after re-testing.

Further affecting academic performance, was the misappropriation of funds that denied district students the essential tools for achievement, and adequate facilities conducive to a learning environment.

According to a report released during a press conference in Trenton, many of the district schools were insufficiently supplied with instructional material and equipment.

Student bathrooms were filthy, toiletries were non-existent, cabling plumbing and electrical wires were exposed and peeling paint and plaster

was part of the schools' decor.

Since state operation began in 1995 however, preventative measures were implemented and an aggressive plan of accountability is in place to sustain viable and significant improvements.

"I'm just delighted that I had the opportunity today to present, both to the state board, the commissioner and to the audience, the strategic plan which we believe represents our roadmap to really putting the school system of Newark on the road to excellence," said Superintendent Hall during a press conference following a progress report to the state board of education.

Hall noted that many questioned the plans for achievement, but was proud to admit "we do believe that it

can be done."

The plan outlines specific areas of interest that are already benefiting from a six-step preliminary campaign initiated by Hall.

To date, she has redirected \$26.3 million into educational programs such as full-day kindergarten and \$3.4 million in new text books are available for all 82 schools.

The state-appointed Superintendent has established guidance services in every elementary school, and established a technical and vocational high school termed "Technology High" that is equipped with state-of-the-art computer and additional technological materials.

Because of improving test results, Hall has established a baseline to build

off of gains in the elementary schools. In language arts, results disclose a 5 percent increase, and in math a 4 percent jump in scoring.

In evaluating administrative shortcomings, particularly in principalship, district principals are now attending a leadership institute that provides for professional development. A \$125,000 award from the Dodge Foundation was given to provide development fellowships for 25 principals.

Hall has also implemented a massive cleanup campaign to restore a healthy environment for the district's children. Horrific and unhealthy conditions in the buildings are under continuing correction.

See RECOVERY/ page 3

## Urban League: Code of conduct needed for cops



Mrs. Narves Gammage, mother of the 31-year-old police choke hold victim in Pittsburgh and National Urban League President Hugh B. Price, calling on President Clinton for a summit on police misconduct and a national code of conduct for police.

Photo by Ray Lewis

WASHINGTON, DC—National Urban League President Hugh B. Price recently asked President Clinton to convene a Summit on Police Misconduct and propose a National Code of Conduct for police.

"The National Urban League is going to pursue this to the hilt," said Price. "We will not rest until we see President Clinton take the leadership on this issue of police brutality against black men."

"We don't want roadside judges and juries—we want justice," Price noted.

Price pointed out that racial tensions have engulfed cities like Pittsburgh and St. Petersburg in the wake of confrontations between police and civilians.

"Since this problem threatens the domestic tranquility of cities across the country and—when it carries out of control, endangers the lives of officers and citizens alike—it is a national crisis which requires presidential leadership."

"My Jonny had never been arrested before," said Mrs. Narves Gammage, mother of 31-year-old Jonny Gammage who died of a choke hold afflicted by a cop in Pittsburgh, PA.

"Jonny was a wonderful human being, he tried to do the right things,

he had a paper route, he worked all through high school and college."

"He wasn't a threat to anyone, he was only 5'ft. 4" and weighed only 160 pounds. I'm pleading to President Clinton to do something," Gammage said.

"We need to ask President Clinton about the police code of silence," said Jonny Gammage, Sr., the victim's father.

"Why did it take five white police officers to suffocate my 164 pound son? Even the good cops won't talk about the bad cops," he stated.

"Too many citizens have lost faith in the criminal justice system," said Pittsburgh Urban League President Ester L. Bush. "We have had enough of all-white juries acquitting all the officers. There is anger and frustration in Pittsburgh and high tension between the police and the community."

"It takes a riot to get attention to our problems," said St. Petersburg, FL, Urban League President James O. Simmons. "That's what we had when officers killed Tyrone Lewis."

"We call on President Clinton and local officials to address these problems and the sea of disparity in the African-American community."

See CODE OF CONDUCT/ page 8

Justice Department to  
investigate Adams killing

by Myra A. Thomas

WASHINGTON, DC—Using his stationery from the U.S. Congress and the Congressional Black Caucus, New Jersey Representative Donald Payne recently penned a letter to the U.S. Justice Department regarding the clearing of a New Brunswick policeman in the fatal shooting of a woman.

In a stern and to-the-point follow-up to a previous letter to the Justice Department, Rep. Payne implored the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights (the Honorable Deval Patrick) to initiate an investigation into the matter.

"I was shocked to learn that notwithstanding the unanswered questions and unexplained areas of concern surrounding the shooting death times,"

of Carolyn Adams, the jury failed to indict. Patrolman Consalvo," wrote Rep. Payne in his November 25 letter.

"During our previous meeting on this issue, you indicated that if the jury did not indict, you would commence an investigation into this matter."

Consalvo maintains that he was trying to arrest Adams on the suspicion of solicitation, when she engaged him in a fierce struggle—a struggle he contends that resulted in him fearing for his life.

Officer Consalvo was cleared by a grand jury on November 6 of criminal wrongdoing. The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office was responsible for presenting the details of the shooting to the grand jury.

Rep. Payne took his recent written request one step further, to ask the Justice Department to open an investigation into the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

Rep. Payne had previously denounced the grand jury findings and questioned the handling of the case by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

Myron Marlin, spokesperson for the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, DC, confirmed that the Department was in the midst of an investigation into the matter.

"We have already opened an investigation into the investigation of the incident, to determine if there were federal criminal civil rights violations," Marlin said.

The grand jury decision came as a disappointment to many in the local African-American community—a community concerned over the influence of race in the use of deadly force by the police department.

Officer Consalvo remains suspended without pay from the New Brunswick Police Department. He will soon face an administrative hearing, led by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. The issue at question will be whether or not the Officer used appropriate police protocol with Adams.

The appropriateness of the pitting down of Adams and the failure to call for backup are just two of the issues of concern.

In a recent interview with City News, New Brunswick Police Director Michael Beltrana Jr. said the date of the administrative hearing had yet to be set. "It's really in the hands of the hearing officer," Beltrana said.

Assemblyman Jones disagrees  
with Whitman's stance on Texaco

TRENTON—Assembly Deputy Minority Leader LeRoy J. Jones, Jr. (D-Essex) recently issued a statement to the press, in reaction to Governor Whitman's response to a proposal to divest the state of Texaco stock holdings.

In his statement, Jones said, "Governor Whitman has apparently decided to give the benefit of the doubt to Texaco executives, when they have not yet earned the trust of this state, the nation or the minority community."

Governor Whitman had previously stated that she would want to assess what effect a divestiture of Texaco stock would have on the state's pension system.

While the Governor condemned the scandal at Texaco, she did note that the steps to correct concerns at Texaco might negate the need for divestiture.

In his statement to the press, Jones went on to say, "I'd like to believe that Governor Whitman's statement was just a quick response and not one she decides to maintain."

The Governor has clung to a philosophy of "many faces, one family," and ignoring Texaco's corporate racism would certainly be an affront to many of the faces in this family."

New Jersey currently holds 990,000 shares of Texaco stock valued at \$100 million, purchased through the state's \$52 billion pension system.

Jones added that once relieved of its Texaco stock holdings, the state would be forbidden from reinvesting



Assembly Deputy Minority Leader LeRoy Jones, Jr.

in Texaco until the company had demonstrated a proven record of tolerance and diversity, and respect for the state's minority community.

This divestiture not only would send a message to Texaco, it would impress upon all large corporations that this state will not stand by idly whenever women or minorities are exploited, ridiculed, or discriminated against."

On December 5, Jones introduced legislation that would force the state to divest itself of Texaco stock. The bill requires the state to result in a profit beneficial to the state's current and future pension recipients.

The Assemblyman's actions come

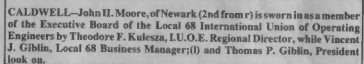
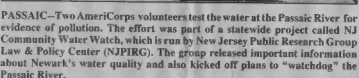
in the wake of the record-setting discrimination lawsuit that Texaco Inc. recently settled, with a \$176 million award for its African-American employees.

The case caused national outrage because of tape recordings that captured senior corporate executives planning the destruction of lawsuit-related documents. Audiotapes also revealed top-level Texaco executives using racial epithets to describe African-American employees.

Assemblyman Jones is planning a January 1997 corporate roundtable of chief executives from the state's Fortune 500 companies, to address the need for effective diversity programs in the private sector.

# PEOPLE

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The state has over 4,000 non-profit organizations, of which more than 600 have contracts with the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Youth and Family Services.

"Non-profit organizations provide tremendous assets to our residents," said Gill. "However they run on shoestring budgets limiting the full scope of services being offered." The measure was approved by a unanimous margin.

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## Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Rights \_\_\_\_\_

## BLACK CAUCUS HEAD SAYS:

## ADMINISTRATION DAWDLING IN AFRICAN CRISIS

by William C. Mann

WASHINGTON, DC (AP)—With continued world inaction, the ethnic hatred in central Africa threatens to engulf much of the continent's eastern half in violence, the head of the Congressional Black Caucus said Wednesday.

Rep. Donald M. Payne said the United States risks losing its leadership of the post-Cold War world by leaving the African cauldron untended "while we sit trying to make up our minds."

Payne, D-N.J., lectured the Clinton administration at a hearing in which

administration officials spoke of fresh tensions to be calm in Rwanda; cross-border fighting in Zaire involving Ugandans; continuing ethnic turmoil in Burundi; and refugee pressures in Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire.

"The situation we have today is the result of not facing the situation adequately two years ago," Payne said. Without action to contain the turmoil, he said, it could develop east-central Africa from Tanzania as far north as Sudan and west as Zambia. Phyllis Oakley, an assistant secretary of state, said the Rwandan dilemma already improved greatly with the return of 600,000 Hutus, who fled to Zaire after tribal extremists slaugh-

tered a half-million Rwandans of the Tutsi tribe in 1994.

The exiles went back in mid-November, but 200,000 to 400,000 Rwandans still roam the jungles of northern Zaire, Oakley said. She said Zairian rebels have prevented relief workers from going into the area even to count how many there are.

"Remarkably, given the still very fresh pains of genocide, human rights monitors have seen almost no cases of retribution," she told the House Foreign Relations international operations and human rights subcommittee.

She said plans are in abeyance for sending a multinational force, which the U.N. Security Council authorized before the refugees unexpectedly returned to Rwanda. Canada, which would lead the force, the United States

and others are considering what would be necessary to mount an airdrop to resupply those still in Zaire.

Oakley also predicted tensions will rise in coming weeks as Tutsi squatters who took over Hutu houses after their own dwellings were destroyed in the ethnic violence are forced to vacate the homes they have taken over.

In next-door Burundi, the United States wants the Hutu and Tutsi sides to negotiate a cease-fire in their ethnic violence, which also is killing many civilians. Richard Bogosian, the State Department's coordinator for Rwanda and Burundi, said little progress is being made.

Bogosian also said about 100 American and other missionaries, fled the northeastern Zaire town of Rethi after Uganda sent in troops last week-

end. He said Washington is urging the Ugandans to exercise restraint, even if provoked by Ugandan rebels operating from Zaire. The latest appeal went to Kampala on Wednesday, he said.

Both Payne and Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., the subcommittee's chairman, complained that Washington seems inordinately worried about shoring up Zaire's president, Mobutu Sese Seko, recuperating in Europe from cancer surgery. Both pictured him as a corrupt dictator.

Payne noted that Mobutu was a foil against Soviet influence during the Cold War. "I ask, why not take out the man we put in? I'm not hell's only one who can keep the country together," he said. "Like he's going to live forever."

Smith, among the House's stron-

gest opponents of abortion, tangled with Oakley over reports Smith quoted that international relief workers are performing "chemical abortions" on refugee women who request them, even those who were not pregnant from rape.

Agencies of the United Nations and the Red Cross have announced that refugee women in Zaire and elsewhere who want to prevent pregnancy are being treated with regular contraceptive pills to prevent fertilized eggs from attaching to the uterus.

Oakley told Smith that is not abortion according to the standard medical definition.

Smith responded that she was "playing semantic games" with the definition. At any rate, he said, "It's ending new life."

## Recovery Continued from page 1

Specifically, bathroom stalls, plumbing and exposed wiring are being repaired. Supplies such as toilet tissues, soaps, paper towels, and hand drying machines are provided unabated.

"I'm here as a physical witness that there is something good going on in our city of Newark," said Al-Malik Williams, a student of the

district. "Often times when I'm public speaking in various places, I find that people have a negative image of our city even before meeting one of us."

"Therefore it is my proud pleasure to tell you or to invite you to come down and to see first hand what's going on in our great city and our magnificent schools."

by Thomas Martello

TRENTON (AP)—Two months ago, black ministers issued a report card on Gov. Christie Whitman. They gave her a "C."

On Tuesday, December 3, Whitman went to school on concerns of the black community during a meeting with ministers in a church basement.

Whitman, just one month from her election year, discussed a wide range of issues, including school funding, hospital charity care, welfare reform, and affirmative action.

The Republican governor said Trenton must come up with a permanent dollar source for hospital charity care when a stopgap measure expires at the end of next year. She pitched her school funding plan, appointed one of her staffers to meet regularly with the ministers, and pledged to oppose legislation to end affirmative action.

The ministers are attempting to widen their role in state policy-making after a successful get-out-the-vote effort in the November election. The black vote was boosted to 13 percent of the total vote in this presidential year, up from 10 percent four years ago. The high turnout was one of the reasons cited for big Democratic wins

by President Clinton and U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli.

"It makes sense for the governor to meet with the leadership of the African-American community," said Rev. Reginald Jackson, executive director of the ministers council.

Jackson said it is wrong to assume black voters will simply cast ballots for Democrats, noting that Republican Gov. Thomas H. Kean got more than 60 percent of the black vote when he ran for re-election in 1985.

Whitman, who got about one-quarter of the black vote in 1993, will be hard-pressed to match Kean's 1985 numbers. Voter exit polls conducted last month by Voter News Service for The Associated Press and television networks found that while 55 percent of all voters approve of Whitman's job performance, about two-thirds of blacks don't think she's doing a good job.

The ministers' political arm in October issued a report card that gave Whitman an overall "C" grade. Jackson said the governor seemed to respond to the ministers' concerns at their meeting, but said they now await action, and will issue another report card next October, one month before Election Day.

"I don't think there's any Demo-

crat that has a leg up on her (among black voters)," said Jackson. "She's holding her own."

Whitman said "politics was not discussed" in the meeting with about 100 ministers in the basement of the Galilee Baptist Church.

Jackson said education is the top priority for the ministers. Whitman and lawmakers are working on a response to a state Supreme Court decision that says New Jersey shortchange public school students in poor urban areas.

"We challenged the governor to work feverishly for parity in school funding," said the Rev. Calvin McKinney, vice president of the General Baptist Convention of New Jersey.

Whitman's plan calls for the teaching of a core curriculum in each school in an attempt to achieve what she calls a "world class" education standard in each school. However, those curriculum standards are surpassed in many suburban schools, leading critics to say the plan would not close the disparity between rich and poor.

McKinney said the ministers agree there should be education standards in each school, and pitched a plan for ministers to "adopt" schools

to increase parent involvement. But he said while Whitman "uses the term core curriculum, we're talking about a comprehensive curriculum."

Jackson said Whitman agreed to involve them in a partnership with the private sector to boost cities, saying they will target Camden, Atlantic City, Trenton, Newark, Asbury Park and Paterson. He provided few details, and noted that prior to the meeting, "We felt there was no urban agenda with this administration."

Jackson said jobs must be created in cities if Whitman's proposed welfare reforms are to work. The reforms would end benefits after five years, "but they have got to have jobs to go to," he said.

The ministers also called on Whitman to form a bipartisan commission to deal with hospital charity care before Election Day.

"I put a proposal in last year with a 25 cent tax on cigarettes that didn't get anywhere, and so we need to revisit it," Whitman said.

Jackson said the ministers had already met with potential Democratic gubernatorial candidates, but would not give names. He did say one "is very familiar." When asked if it was former Gov. Jim Florio, defeated by Whitman in 1993, Jackson smiled but remained silent.

## NBC Continued from page 1

airing. NBC plays the "race card" by opening the documentary with reaction to the verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, which happened on the day of her attack in 1995, she said.

She said NBC also shows an alleged composite sketch of her alleged rapist. This, she said, "can only serve the fictional premise that there is a black bogey man out there, raping white women... This is Willie Horton all over again."

Pomer is a filmmaker and an anti-death penalty activist who works on the case of Mumia Abu Jmal, a black activist on death row in Pennsylvania for the shooting of a police officer. "I'm stunned," NBC senior producer Claudia Pryor said of the criticism. "Most of the hour is based on her description of what she went through and is narrated by her."

The Simpson verdict was mentioned, in part, because Pomer stated that the alleged rapist told her that one of the reasons he attacked her was because he was angry about the reaction of many whites to the verdict, Pryor said. The composite was based

on a description signed by Pomer, she added.

Pomer noted that while she had helped police draw a composite, she had never seen the drawing used by NBC as a dramatic device, much less signed it, and furthermore, it doesn't look like the man who raped her.

After she had seen the program, Pomer called Pryor and screamed that "I can no longer hold my head up in South Central" Los Angeles, an area with a high concentration of minorities," Pryor said.

"I believe the reason she is so angry is because we covered her story and not her agenda," Pryor said. "She has a political agenda. I believe, that... makes her rapist sort of a troubled young man who did a terrible thing but we need to feel sorry for him."

According to Pomer, she was disgusted by NBC's comments—particularly since the show's producers had persuaded her to go along with the story by promising to describe her work as an activist—and then decided to drop that angle.

"Nobody wants this guy off the street more than I do," she added.

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## EDITORIAL

# The fight to save affirmative action

Legislation proposed by Republicans Michael Carroll and Kevin O'Toole (R-Ft. Lee) to repeal the state's affirmative action laws should be fought vigorously at every level of our state and legislature. It is incumbent on our elected officials, both Republican and Democrat, to continue the state's effort of supporting equal opportunity and access in all aspects of employment, education and contractual agreements.

Minorities and women have contributed significantly to this nation's economy, specifically because affirmative action laws made it abundantly clear that government, corporations and institutions could not continue an unwritten policy of exclusion.

It is estimated that African Americans will have contributed nearly \$500 billion to the nation's economy by year's end. Eliminate affirmative action and you will exclude the nation from benefiting from the underutilized contributions of black America.

In addition, the primary beneficiaries of affirmative action is the white woman. White women have long enjoyed their rise in public and private sectors, and are able to supplement their family's and personal income.

Attacks on affirmative action is a thinly veiled attempt to maintain the status quo. Governor Christine Whitman has pledged continued support of affirmative action. And, a bipartisan group in the state's assembly has strongly denounced the efforts of Carroll and O'Toole and have vowed to fight any attempt to repeal affirmative action. Not to do so would keep the playing field uneven and "black jelly beans" at the bottom of the bag.

THE PASTOR'S WORD

## Working together for the good of urban cities

by Reverend Reginald Jackson



A couple of weeks ago *Money Magazine* came out with a survey that named Newark last in a list of unsafe cities in the United States. The survey produced a firestorm of criticism from the political and community leadership of Newark. The story in *Money Magazine* continues an ongoing pattern of making Newark, the butt of the object of jokes and negative stories. Late Night talk shows, comedians and a host of others have heaped ridicule on Newark.

Newark does have a multitude of problems, a school system which for decades has not educated, political corruption which has undermined and degraded the confidence of much of its citizenry, a police department which does not make it a citizen's safe place, an epidemic of crackpunks and increased drug use, an incidence of AIDS that is among the highest in the nation and a plethora of other problems. Indeed Newark has major problems.

However, let us all be real. All of our problems have major problems, troubled public schools, low public confidence, citizens who are worried about their safety, drug use that is increasing, and other problems. The same problems that Newark has. So what exactly is the benefit or the harm over the plight of our cities, does it make a difference whether you live in the city ranked 102 or 202. Do the jokes made about the 202nd city, make the

other cities safer or better? Does criticism of Newark make the other cities better? Of course not.

Mayor Sharpe James and the other leaders in Newark are right to be upset about the criticism of Newark, not right because the problems don't exist, but right because Newark, has unfairly been singled out. It gives the inference that Newark is making no progress. The truth is that while it may be slow, progress is being made, and should be acknowledged.

Last Tuesday, the Black Ministers Council of New Jersey, met with Gov. Christine Whitman to discuss a host of issues. One of the issues was an urban agenda for targeted urban areas of the state. The targeted cities are Camden, Atlantic City, Asbury Park, Trenton, Newark, and Paterson.

We proposed a partnership with the Urban Coordinating Council (UCC), the Black Ministers Council and the corporate community to revitalize and rebuild our urban areas, this, of course, will include local elected leadership, community-based non-profit organizations, churches, schools, etc. The Ministers Council will facilitate the interactions.

There is much to be done to improve the quality of life in our urban centers. It all does not include money and will take some time. But we must do something to make a difference in our urban centers, and it will take all of us.

Those who live in the suburban and rural areas of the state may wish to ignore the urban areas of the state but they do so at their own peril. Those dumping on and making fun of Newark, need to be reminded that so goes the urban areas, so goes the state. New Jersey will not be all it can be without the quality of life in urban areas being enhanced.

This quality of life must include not only clean and safe streets, decent housing, and employment and sound financial management, but also cultural, spiritual and moral quality. Newark and all these urban centers are a part of us, a part of New Jersey. Whether the statistics criticism and evaluations are true, is not the ultimate question. The ultimate question is whether we are resigned to leave them as they are, or whether in partnership we will work together to improve them.

Have an opinion? we want to hear it. Send commentaries to

CITY NEWS  
PO Box 1774,  
Plainfield, NJ 07061

by Sidney E. Morse

The tally is in and, to no one's surprise, Bill Clinton regained his position as leader of the most powerful nation in the world. And when the Republicans were able to maintain control of both the House and Senate by the slimmest of margins, the voters sent their message loud and clear that they want the tenor of government to be one of moderation and not one that is reflected in the agenda of the "extreme right." But while the White House and Congress remain the same, "it is time for radical change in the African-American community."

Neglected urban communities, drugs, crime, a severe lack of jobs, health problems, including the AIDS crisis, and a general absence of a definitive direction appear to be the most pressing challenges facing the African-American community today.

If not radical change, then at least two fundamental dynamics need to be modified if African Americans are to take advantage of this new "strategic window of opportunity" provided by the re-election of President Clinton. It is clear that the continuity reflected in the presidential election results, aided by a "bimodal" congress, as a minimum, signals a period of "benign" governance at the federal level as it relates to the concerns of African Americans.

The first change calls for a shift in examining the cause of the challenges the African-American community faces nationwide from an external perspective to an internal one. That is to say we must first change the instrument of analysis from a microscope to a microscope and look from within. There is a critical need to engage in a national introspective dialogue and use it as a pillar for building effective "self-empowerment" strategies.

My mother used to frequently tell me that "prosperity starts at home and spreads abroad." As African Americans, we cannot build the kind of infrastructure that will facilitate our participation in the 21st century unless we

understand what strengths we possess both as individuals and as a national community.

Equally as important is the notion of our willingness to better understand our weaknesses and then to develop strategies that will make us stronger and healthier as a people.

The second dynamic is one that is currently being controlled by media forces outside of the African-American community. An important juncture of our socioeconomic evolution, we have made a definitive change in our public image to support structural changes necessary to facilitate progress.

Just as we changed the nomenclature of what we were called from "colored" to "Negro" in the late 50s, "Negro" to "African-American" and then to "black" in the late 60s and early 70s to "black" to "African American" in the 80s, it is now time to change the content of our dialogue from "civil rights" to "self-empowerment."

The Civil Rights Movement is a legacy of which all African Americans can be proud, as it has served as a shining example to the world of what it means to engage in human struggle to achieve a noble and virtuous goal.

That is why we should not every time the media chooses to use the term "civil rights" leader or organization because it has come to be the equivalent of "code language" which signifies "black" or minority. This would not be to except that too often its contextual use has a regressive tone of subordination as the essence of its foundation.

The Civil Rights era is best symbolized in the partnership, so aptly necessary at its peak, between government and those who were oppressed. But the equation has changed and now, that partnership, very effective in providing basic civil liberties and lifting African Americans to the next level of our socio-economic evolution, is ready to enjoy the treasures of its rich history.

The election results provide a timely example of just the dynamics to

which I refer. Proposition 209, the California Civil Rights Initiative, its name dripping with irony, was passed by a substantial margin of voters. This is a trend that will no doubt soon be making an appearance on ballots in every State in the Union. In a post affirmative-action period, African-Americans must take it upon themselves to produce "affirmative" results.

"The strategic window of opportunity" offered by a second Clinton White House, provides a chance for the African-American community to develop and implement strategies that shift emphasis away from government and toward "self-empowerment."

Earlier this year, SUMMIT 2000, One this year, an impressive group of Los Angeles African-American business executives got together to organize an effort to facilitate a national dialogue on African-American economic development.

The content of the dialogue centers around five key areas: Understanding capitalism, access to capital, increasing ownership, emerging industries and business opportunities and the economic implications of social issues.

Back in May, these business leaders came to highlight the launch of SUMMIT 2000 by demonstrating the impact of the "information superhighway" and how it can be used as a self-empowerment tool. They conducted a five-day televised conference with other business and community leaders in New York, Washington, DC, Atlanta and Chicago. This was a precursor to the national conference that was held in Washington, DC in September.

SUMMIT 2000 is an attempt to tap into the wonderful things that are already going on and leverage them into an economic result for the African-American community nationwide. The group plans to conduct conferences around the country both in individual cities and to host a national conference each year between 2000 and the year 2000.

Here in Southern California, the Los Angeles Urban League, under the leadership of its President John Mack is launching a major entertainment initiative that ties computer training and high technology skills to grantee jobs in partnership with Hollywood's largest film studios. This effort, focuses on African Americans and other minorities from displaced worker pools.

It is only by providing a formula for self-empowerment, but opens an industry that has been largely closed to people of color since its inception some 70+ years ago. This will allow African Americans the rare opportunity to be on the front end of the technology curve instead of behind it. More efforts like these are needed nationwide.

At the same time, the CIA-crack cocaine connection has been expanded into a national inquiry. This is a situation that must certainly be investigated and if the allegations are true, those responsible brought to justice. But we have not yet heard from the American leaders to focus more on another example of "oppressive victimology" than to tap into the power derived from taking responsibility for one's own actions.

After all, we have not yet heard the CIA being accused of "holding guns to people's heads" forcing them to smoke "crack." For to relinquish responsibility for our own behavior is to surrender control over our destiny as well.

As the African-American community watches the nation enter the second term of a Clinton Administration, let us ourselves. "What we have the power to control?" The answers should serve as the building blocks for a new vision, a new future and a new reality. This process of examination will create a "strategically progressive" model that will serve us well as we meet the challenges and the opportunities of the new millennium.

Sidney Morse, a Los Angeles resident, is a strategic development consultant.

## St. Louis contractors shutdown Wall Street

by Harry C. Alford

Shut 'em down! Shut 'em down! oh! how sweet the words from the classic Gil Scott Heron song sounded in New York City last Friday, November 29, 1996. The Day that 200 black warriors—brothers & sisters—flew in from St. Louis, landed on buses that took them in front of the New York Stock Exchange Protest the lack of investment activities for the black world. The accomplishment was that the famous Wall St. Thoroughfare was closed off to the public, forcing Stock Exchange employees to scurry in and out of the alley entrance.

Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and many others who came before must have been smiling down on the new, bold and victorious activity. This was the beginning of what

will become common throughout this country until equal opportunity in business practices become a reality. All major corporations and government entities are now on notice.

If we will fly from St. Louis to shutdown a thoroughfare of world renown, we will throw down anywhere it is necessary. The adrenaline and positive emotion of this writer had not been dulled since the Million Man March. I now have a vision of another million black men coming to Washington, DC with their million black women and they won't be coming to Alton.

Nations Bank of Charlotte, NC, is buying Nations Bank's shares which are owned in greater St. Louis and Kansas City. Their pledge for community investment is typical of this Jim Crow style corporation. They are giving \$10 million in business loans.

This is an outrage and we aren't going for it.

The bench mark for these types of mergers was established by our warriors at the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce, Congresswoman Maxine Waters and the Greenlining Institute of California. Wells Fargo Bank, in its merger with its Interstate has pledged \$45 billion in minority business, business development and minority investment; \$100 million in charitable donations and 40 percent of all purchases and contracts with minority and women vendors. This will be the least Nations Bank will pledge. Nations Bank will have plenty bank mergers will pledge. After the pledges it is up to us to ensure it is completed.

Led by Eric Vickers, Esquire, the continental Nations Bank is spurred by the National Black Cham-

ber of Commerce, Minority Business Enterprise Legal defense and Education Fund and the St. Louis Minority Contractors Association.

At 5 a.m. on the morning of November 29, a chartered 747 jet landed at St. Louis with Eric and 200 contractors. It landed at LaGuardia Airport where I was waiting with three bus loads of people. From there were bused to the site. They were met by a force of 2,000 NYC policemen. The "chess game" of civil disobedience began and proceeded for three grueling hours.

When it was over, the business world knew we were joking. Many of the high ranking police officials who came out to view the protest showed their amazement. One of the ranking officers, a black woman stated that she was very impressed with our actions.

## Restating the problem: race and inequality

by Dr. Manning Marable

The poet Langston Hughes once suggested years ago that the black American's quest for democracy in the United States was "a dream deferred." Perhaps we should now add that this dream has been so long delayed, corrupted and compromised that many black folk now question the viability of the entire political project called American democracy.

Any understanding of American society and history must begin with the study of the black American experience in this country. This is because the status and existence of black people, the quality of our lives and the range of possibilities which we can realistically achieve through our own endeavors, is the essential limit test for the viability of American democracy. It is the distance between America's rhetoric vs. its reality, between what America says about itself vs. what it actually is.

The core of the definition about what it has meant to be "an American." The reality of "blackness" has all too often been the criteria for determining a series of questions about the relationship between the people, the state and civil society. Who is citizen, and who is not? Who has voting rights, and

who has not? Who rides in the Jim Crow section of the bus, and who does not? Who lives in the ghetto, and who does not? Who is the last person to get a job, and who is the last?

The basic paradox one must confront in any consideration of the role of race in American life, is the tension between the unpaid exploitation of slavery to the underpaid labor of African Americans in central cities in the 1990's. Nevertheless, despite our centrality, we continue to be marginalized by the mainstream of the dominant society.

We are continually unequal members of the household, but never members of the national family. In the language of "hip-hop" culture, we are "disrespected" in the very house we have helped to construct.

From the vantage point of African-American history, from the depths of our sorrow and anger, we ask our-

selves, why do we continue to be marginalized? Who benefits from this marginalization? Who is responsible for this? We must begin to question the power and privilege which makes this marginalization an enduring fact of American life?

African Americans understand that race is not a valid biological concept; that it has no genetic validity. Stripped of the rhetoric superiority and inferiority, the science of race is nothing but a fraud, grounded in power, privilege and violence against those who are oppressed.

Yet our lives are defined and circumscribed by the brutal reality of racism, a system that denies the humanity of millions of people, limiting their education, employment, health, housing and future.

This is why all the recent talk about "reverse racism" is sheer nonsense. When African Americans control all of the banks and financial institutions in our neighborhood, all of the real estate and commercial enterprises, we might begin to talk about discrimination against whites.

When our government truly reflects the real percentage of African-Americans, Latinos and other racial minorities within the general population, when the corporations that exploit black, brown and poor consumer

markets are actually controlled democratically by those who produce the wealth, then we might seriously discuss the possibility of "reverse racism." Whiteness in a racist, corporate-controlled society is like having the image of American Express card or Diners Club card stamped on one's face. Immediately you are "universally" accepted.

Let's restate the problem of black liberation in a white, conservative and capitalist society: to end racism, we must end inequality. Our goal cannot be simply the assimilation or integration of black elites into the white cultural and corporate mainstream. Nor can we combat inequality by going it alone, divorced from real and potential allies from a broad spectrum of brown, poor and working class women and men.

The problem of the 21st century is the challenge of multicultural democracy—whether African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, African Indians, Arab Americans, African Americans, women, working people, the unemployed, the poor and many others.

## CITY NEWS

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# YOUTHBEAT

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## Kids Kalendar

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
**JERSEY CITY**—The Biblioteca Cretella branch of the Jersey City Public Library will hold a Xmas crafts workshop for kids ages 5 to 12. Pre-registration is required. For more info call 201-547-4541.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
**CRAWFORD**—The Brookside Place School will hold a Winter Concert at 1:40 pm. For more info call the Board of Ed 908-709-8244.

**JERSEY CITY**—The Educational Arts Team will host a Christmas-crafts workshop at 3:30 pm, at the Marion branch of the Jersey City Public Library. For more info call 201-547-4552.

**JERSEY CITY**—The Pearsall Branch of the Jersey City Public Library will host "Foto" the clown. For more info call 201-547-4555.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
**JERSEY CITY**—The Hudson City Branch of the Jersey City Public Library will present "Flakey the Snowman" and his magic show at 3:15 pm. For more info call 201-547-4556.

**DECEMBER 13-15**  
**UNION**—The Model RF Club will hold a Model Railroad Club Holiday Show. The display features working miniatures of trains, scenery, landscaping and buildings. Hours on Friday are 7 to 10 pm; Saturday, 12 noon to 3 pm; and Sunday, 12 noon to 6 pm. For more info call 908-527-4900.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
**HOLMDEL**—The Monmouth County Park System has scheduled "Adventures in Gingerbread" at the historic Longstreet Farm, on Longstreet Road, for youngsters ages 7 and up, at 2 pm. Registration is required. For more info call 908-842-4000.

**PLAINFIELD**—The Plainfield Public Library will host "Origami with Mary Kay," for kids ages 7 and up, at 2 pm. Registration is required. For more info call 908-757-1111.

**BERKELEY HEIGHTS**—A variety of children's holiday events will be held in downtown, including breakfast with Santa, decorating, caroling, etc., from 10 am to 2 pm. A trolley will be available for transportation to each event. For more info call 908-527-4900.

## Students helping students



A Rutgers student volunteer for the Pilot Me program and her mentee seem to be enjoying their reading session.

by Jeremie L. Johnson

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—After the school bell rings on Friday, some third graders run home to catch the latest cartoon. But, Courtney Moore, has other plans. She, along with her three siblings, will be attending "Pilot Me." The six week program held at The Presbyterian Church at 100 Livingston Avenue in New Brunswick allows students six to 10 years of age a place to go for tutoring, mentoring and fun.

Area college and high school tutors serve as volunteer mentors and role models.

"Pilot Me" is the brainchild of Helen Eurd, a Presbyterian Church member for 23 years and Fred C. Clark of United Campus Ministries. Rutgers University's Rutgers and Cook colleges provide additional financial assistance for the program under Dean Shawn Johnson of Rutgers College

and George Sufiali, a Cook College advisor.

"Pilot Me" is run by the students every Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Some 20-25 students, with the help of their tutors, complete homework, read books, paint, draw, write journals and practice other skills.

"Registration for the program was slow at first because a lot of the students moved since last year. It finally picked-up to the point of where we have more kids than tutors," said Pauline Sufiali, the coordinator of the program and a Rutgers senior.

Some children are more high-strung than others, but discipline is part of the program. College students work one-on-one with students to help bolster a caring, disciplined environment, something so important to leadership notes Clark.

Pilot Me will be offered to students again starting in February.

## Justin Edmund, the little angel in *The Preacher's Wife*

by Coyne Steven Sanders

"I loved making *The Preacher's Wife*. It was so much fun every day. It was the best time I've had in my whole life," says scene-stealing 6-year-old Justin Pierre Edmund, making his motion picture debut as "Jeremiah" in director Penny Marshall's heartwarming comedy for Hollywood Pictures, *The Preacher's Wife* opening nationwide December 20.

The film stars Whitney Houston as the gospel-singing wife of Reverend Henry Briggs (Courtney B. Vance), who is a good man but doubting his ability to make a difference in his troubled community and home.

Helps on the way, however, in the form of an angel named Dudley (Denzel Washington) who soon becomes both the source of and solution to their problems.

Articulate, intelligent, talented and fun-loving, Justin enjoyed the filmmaking experience so much that he has a very specific goal in mind.

"I'm waiting to do *The Preacher's Wife, Part II*!" he says with great excitement. "I hope they do that, make another part to *The Preacher's Wife*. If they aren't thinking about it now, they should!"

Justin clearly relished the entire experience. From auditioning to filming his final scenes was a great adventure. His excitement is obvious as he recounts landing the role against hundreds of hopeful youngsters.

"I auditioned about six times before I got the part," Justin says. "Then I read with Whitney, Denzel and Courtney, and I was picked for a screen test. I was so excited when they told me I got the part and said they liked me!"

As *The Preacher's Wife* producer Elliot Abbott says of this remarkably talented little boy from Queens, New York, "We looked at several non-professionals as well as child actors for the role, but as soon as we saw Justin we knew we had found our Jeremiah. Justin can act, and he's a real little boy."

That is exactly what we wanted."

Although Justin was only 5 years old when he auditioned for the part, the precocious youngster was already a show business veteran, having started his modeling career as a ripe old age of eight months. Some of his earlier credits include print work and commercials for PlaySkool, U.S. Health Care, The March of Dimes and Wrigley's Spearmint Gum.

"I rehearsed my audition and my part with my mom," Justin re-

members. "I can memorize the words so big. I must have been one hundred feet tall!"

His family makes certain that he also has a carefree child's life and his close-knit family ensures that show business is kept in proper perspective.

"I tell Justin the only real stars are in the sky," says his mother Denise. "He's really not touched by this at all. He doesn't even tell his friends that he's in the movie. He just wants to ride his bike, play with his puppy and be with his friends."

So far, however, he has not announced any plans to direct. But with this talented little boy, anything is possible.

If anyone can be a showbiz superstar and save the lizards of the world, it will certainly be Justin Pierre Edmund. *The Preacher's Wife*, it seems, is only the beginning.



Justin Pierre Edmund stars as Jeremiah in *The Preacher's Wife*.

## Governor's School accepting applications

**TRENTON**—The New Jersey Governor's School of Arts, held annually at The College of New Jersey, is now accepting applications for the 1997 session.

Applications are available to high school juniors through their guidance counselors and principals.

Applicants must be residents of New Jersey, but may attend high schools out of state.

A specialized honors program,

the school offers gifted students five curriculums: creative writing, visual art, dance, acting, and music, each with different application requirements.

Students will spend four weeks on the college campus, working closely with professionals, including renowned artists and performers. Master classes, performances, and demonstrations are provided for the students, and trips are often taken to museums, concerts, dance and theater events.

## Students to train as EMTs



Two Plainfield students demonstrate CPR on a dummy while County Superintendent Larry Leverett and Union County College President, Tom Brown look on.

**PLAINFIELD**—Fifteen Plainfield High School students will gain valuable lifesaving skills, and help reduce a shortage of emergency care personnel in the city.

The training will be supervised under a collaborative training program in Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with Union County College and Mullenburg Regional Medical Center.

The program, which started in November and will run through mid-May, is financed by a \$7,500 grant from the Plainfield Foundation.

Training, held at the College's Plainfield Campus, provides in-depth emergency preparation by Edward Reade, the College's EMT coordinator.

To help alleviate the shortage of EMTs in Plainfield, the College and Mullenburg developed the EMT program to attract high school students into voluntary first-aid and rescue squads, and ultimately into health-related professions.

Students were selected based on a citywide shortage of certified First-Aid, Personnel, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics, as typical of many communities.

The project will consist of 12 hours of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction and 120 hours of Emergency Medical Technician and basic life support instruction. Classes will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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## Join the Muppets for the Plainfield Tree-Lighting Ceremony

The Plainfield Annual Tree-Lighting ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m., on the steps of City Hall. All are welcome to participate and rock to the beats of Christmas with the Muppet Band. The Plainfield Community Girls Choir will sing songs with Santa. Gifts will be distributed. For more info call 908-753-3097.

## New video helps kids avoid gangs/bullies

**EDISON**—We are all aware of gangs in large cities. Street gangs are also affecting small and medium cities and rural townships throughout America by committing both serious and violent crimes.

In addition to the visible gang threat, often unchecked elementary and adolescent bullying is still another challenge to America's children and teens. Helping young people to avoid bullies and gangs is what *Beat The Bully Problem*, an awareness, intervention and prevention guide, is all about. Created for parents and educators to help children, and for children to learn how to help themselves, this self-help guidebook addresses a national problem in very real terms. Its clear, concise pages are loaded with preventative measures and protective solutions to eliminate the cold, cruel behavior that, like gangs, intimidates, injures and even critically harms children. *Beat The Bully Problem* is about not becoming a victim.

To further teach the gang and bullying prevention message to America's young people, between the ages of 7 and 14, *Beat The Street* recently made its entrance into the conflict prevention and peaceful resolution arenas.

*Beat The Street* is an interactive, hands-on program for use on CD-ROM-equipped IBM-PC and compatible schools and home computers.

Interested educators, parents, schools, and police and correctional professionals may send inquiries to USCCN/National Crime Commission, Post Office Box 1185, Edison, New Jersey 08818-1185.

All inquiries must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Electronic Internet inquiries may be sent to usccn@hawaii.ios.com.

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## LIFESTYLES

### Families can get help with energy bills

**TRIENTON**—New Jersey families who need help meeting winter heating expenses can apply for a grant from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now through Feb. 1.

Eligible recipients can expect checks in the mail this month. For the first time this year, applications will not be handled at the county's welfare offices. Instead, applicants can go to the sites of various community organizations which provide weatherization programs.

A family of three qualifies for the assistance if their gross monthly income is \$1,623 or less. Another \$328 is allowed for each additional family member. Most welfare and food stamp recipients automatically qualify for the assistance and should expect checks in December.

Outreach centers are located in the following areas:

Bergen County-CAF Contact Mariya Pappas, 201-685-5100

Essex County-La Casa De Don Pedro, 817 Riverside Avenue, Newark, contact Brenda Hudson, 908-483-4701

Hudson County-Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation, 555 Kennedy Blvd., Bayonne, contact Tony Mico, 201-

437-7222

**Puerto Ricans Asociados for Community Organization**, 214 Second Street, Jersey City, contact Rosa Lopez, 201-699-2673 or 3700 Bergeline Avenue, Union City, contact Maria Ladeana, 201-664-3774

**Middlesex County-Puerto Rican Action Board**, 22 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, New Brunswick, contact Vivian Perez, 908-828-4510

**Monmouth County-Hispanic Affairs & Resource Center**, 913 Sewall Avenue, Asbury Park, contact Dana Godoy, 908-775-4336

**Ocean County-Lakewood Economic Action Program**, 30 Eight Road, Lakewood, contact Karen Colletti, 609-364-4333

**Passaic County-Paterson Task Force**, 155 Ellison Street, Paterson, contact Lana Stokes or Ada Pugh, 201-279-2333

**United Passaic Organization**, 41 Myrtle Avenue, Passaic, contact Margarita Martinez, 201-472-2478

**Union County-Puerto Rican Organization for Community Education and Economic Development**, 815 Elizabeth Avenue - 2nd Fl., Elizabeth, contact Joseph Diaz or Maria Martinez, 908-351-7727

**Urban League of Union County**, 272 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, contact Irene Sirother, 908-351-7200

### PHC brings the Joy of Christmas to children

**PLAINFIELD**—The Plainfield Health Center (PHC) is hosting a special holiday party for the community's needy children entitled "The Joy of Christmas."

The party will be held on Thursday, December 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Health Center located at 1700-58 Myrtle Ave. Over 100 children are expected to attend the festivities.

Former Governor Florio and his wife Lucinda will be special guests and will assist in the toy distribution. For more information call 908-753-6401 ext. 143.

### Free booklets help cut waste and target donations

**NEWARK**—Just in time for the Christmas season of charitable giving, the city of Newark is making available free copies of "Second Chances: The Planet Newark Guide to Donating 'Unwanted Goods.'"

The 40-page guide features a listing of 60 local non-profit organizations that can use various second hand items donated by the public.

For a free copy of Second Chances, call the Newark Office of Recycling at 733-6683 or 733-6685 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Stanley sponsors Toys for Tots celebration

**IRVINGTON**—Assemblyman Craig Stanley (D-Essex) has announced his 2nd annual Toys for Tots Holiday celebration scheduled for Thursday, December 12.

"The holiday season brings happiness and joy to families, especially children during this time of year," stated the assemblyman.

Stanley noted that the public is invited to participate in the event which will be held at the Bon Appetite Restaurant & Lounge at 1240 Springfield Ave. in Irvington from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is one unwrapped toy. A buffet will be served.

## The Preacher's Wife opens December 20



Whitney Houston (l) stars as the gospel singing wife of a troubled preacher (Courtney B. Vance) who gets some help with her family's problems from an angel named Dudley (Denzel Washington, l) who turns out to be the source of some of the problems.

## Harambee!—a celebration of Kwanzaa

Television's first Kwanzaa Holiday Special. A community comes together because of violence and a Kwanzaa celebration and a boy's very far life. Pictured are Harambee stars, Howard Rollins (Chimbuko), Aaron Beener (Jolo) and Novella Nelson (Jolo's grandmother). Together the family and community try to overcome the violence in their neighborhood with help from Chimbuko, a Kwanzaa ceremony and an essay written by Jolo.



**ST. PAUL, MN**—Harambee! (Swahili for "unity") is a moving family drama about the seven-day commemorative observance of Kwanzaa, celebrated by African Americans from December 26 through January 1.

Written and directed by Fracaswell (Cas) Hyman, produced by Liz Nealon and starring Howard Rollins, Harambee! will premiere nationally on PBS from December 19 through 29. (Check local listings.)

The realities of random violence confront the Barnes family when a stray bullet enters their apartment on Christmas night. Eleven-year-old Jolo Barnes (Aaron Beener), his sister, and cousin are then forced to stay inside because of their mother's concerns for her family's safety.

In frustration, Jolo writes a school composition on the injustice of violence, and how it has made him a prisoner in his own community, even

within his own home.

That evening Jolo's family attends their first Kwanzaa celebration at their housing project's community center where Chimbuko (Howard Rollins), an activist and five-year recovering drug addict sees Kwanzaa as a way to help the community come together to meet the challenges in their neighborhood.

When Jolo's grandmother, Queen Esther (Novella Nelson), is chosen as the community leader to begin the Umoja (mutual well-being) ceremony, she proudly asks her grandson to share his school essay with the gathering.

A popular newspaper columnist, attending with Jolo's journalist aunt, is so moved by the boy's plea for a safer neighborhood that he features the essay in his column the next morning.

Sparked by the temporary attention from City Hall and the police department following the publication of Jolo's essay, the housing project residents use Kwanzaa as a catalyst for action.

In the end, it is the fiery and determined family matriarch Queen Esther who embraces the Kwanzaa philosophy, demonstrating how each person must stand to stop the violence that plagues our communities.

### Newark announces Tax amnesty

**NEWARK**—The Newark Municipal Council has passed a resolution that will waive all outstanding interest and fines including water and sewer penalties from December 2, through December 31 of this year.

The amnesty is projected to result in almost \$7 million for city taxes, over \$4 million for water and in excess of \$1 million for sewer payments. For more info call 201-733-8058.

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## Tuskegee Airmen premieres on AHN



The cast of Tuskegee Airmen (l-r), Malcolm Jamal Warner, Cuba Gooding Jr., Allen Payne, Courtney Vance and Laurence Fishburne (seated).

**NEW YORK, NY**—The African Heritage Movie Network Prime-time Presentations (AHN-Prime), hosted by legendary film stars Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, celebrates Veteran's Day and the holiday season with the broadcast premier of "The Tuskegee Airmen."

"You know I'm a veteran of World War II, yet it wasn't until it was over that I found out about the Tuskegee Airmen. And, if it weren't for the NAACP speaking on the case of one man discriminated against by the Air Force, they might not have been organized in the first place," said Ossie Davis.

"And, if it weren't for the encouragement of Eleanor Roosevelt, they might never have seen combat," replied Ruby Dee. "But they did see combat and they fought bravely—and remarkably," commented Ossie Davis.

The Tuskegee Airmen is a recurrence version based on the real World War II story of the "Fighting 99th," who were the first African-American combat fighter pilots of the U.S. Army Air Corps. These men were not only forced to battle the daunting prejudice at home, but also the Axis powers in Europe.

In this re-enactment, the new recruits played by Laurence Fishburne (Hannibal Lee), Cuba Gooding, Jr. (Billy Roberts), Allen Payne (Walter Peoples), Malcolm Jamal Warner (Leroy Cappy) and Mekhi Phifer (Lewis Johns) are all brought together to prove themselves intelligent and worthy of flying a plane.

Under the scrutiny by Christopher McDonald (Major Sherman) and Daniel Hugh Kelly (Colonel Noel L. Packer), they soon discover that their presence as U.S. Army Air Corps cadets is not welcome.

The exhausting training, bigoted officers and constant challenges of flying soon take toll on the cadets. Some of them wipe out and others prove they have the "right stuff" with the help of Courtney Vance (Lieutenant Jeffrey Glenn).

They eventually win their wings with the "Fighting 99th," which is the legendary, highly decorated squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group of World War II.

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## City News Religious Directory

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24 Racicot St., Newark, NJ 07102

201-622-3505

### Tabernacle Baptist Church



Pastor Leo H. Graham

Church Services: Sun. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

925 Ridgewood Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902

908-545-4063

### Abundant Life Family Worship Center



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# BUSINESS

## Governor Whitman hosts Women's Economic Summit

**EAST BRUNSWICK**—During her keynote address at the December 2 "Governor's Conference on Women: An Economic Summit," Governor Christine Todd Whitman stressed the importance of education, economics, and politics in empowering women in New Jersey.

She expressed dismay over a recent study that indicates the wage gap between women and men in New Jersey is greater than the national average, and stressed the importance of the core curriculum standards in education as a means to close the gap that has existed for so long.

The referenced study, entitled "The Status of Women in New Jersey," states that on average, women make slightly less than 66 cents on the dollar, compared to the country's average of 68-and-a-half cents.

Additionally, it reports that New Jersey ranks near the bottom nationally in women's business ownership—even though 30 percent of all businesses in New Jersey are owned by women.

Governor Whitman stated, "All

students, no matter where they live in the state, should be trained for life after school. They must have cognitive learning skills that will enable them to grow and compete in the 21st century."

Held at the Brunswick Hilton in East Brunswick, the conference was coordinated by the New Jersey Division on Women. Speeches by Edith Weiner, a nationally known futurist, and Jeannine LaRue, Executive Director of 10,000 Mentors, were also a highlight of the day-long event.

A variety of workshops focusing on women's economic issues were held in morning and afternoon sessions.

Workshop presenters included: Susanne Szivany, Sr. V.P. CoreState Bank; Judson Culbreth, Editor-In-Chief, *Working Mother*; Barbara Cheston, Coordinator, Women in the Trades Program; Ellen Silverman, President, Ellen Silverman Associates; Jo Anne Heisen, Corporate Controller, Johnson & Johnson; Ellen Harris, V.P., PaineWebber; and Marcy Syms, President, Syms Corp., and

many more.

The conference was hosted by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and co-hosted by the Asian-Indian Chamber of Commerce, Executive Women of New Jersey, Greek-American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, National Federation of Independent Business, New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, New Jersey Pan-African Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey.

With some 750 women in attendance, the Division on Women touted the conference as a success. Despite the large numbers of women involved, minority women were but a handful of the attendees. As well, partisan politics were the rule of the day, with a contingent of women from the Republican National Committee assigned to a table close to the dais.

Members of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce will be meeting shortly with representatives from the Division on Women to discuss the outcome of the event and possible future efforts.

## Glory Foods supports NCNW Fund



Theresa Potter (r), marketing director of Glory Foods, Inc. poses with songstress Gladys Knight, at the National Council of Negro Women Fund for the Future campaign launch in Washington, DC.

**WASHINGTON, DC**—Glory Foods, Inc. was among the corporate supporters attending the recent inauguration ceremonies for the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Fund for the Future campaign held in Washington, DC.

Representing Glory Foods at this stellar event were Theresa Potter, Director of Marketing and Lisa Chiff, National Sales Manager. The ceremonies included such speakers as First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mayor Marion Berry, Dr. Camille Cosby, Dr. Maya Angelou and Essence Editor-In-Chief Susan Taylor.

The Fund for the Future is a three-year, thirty-million dollar campaign to further develop NCNW timely initiatives and to continue the support of its 34 national affiliate organizations, sixty-thousand members, and 250 community-based sections in the United States and countries of Africa.

Funds raised will be earmarked to purchase and renovate the new NCNW headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue in DC, and provide endowment support for NCNW's economic future.

NCNW's new building sets a historical precedent, because it marks the first time an African-American organization has owned a building on the prestigious Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington.

"We share the same goal in terms

of reaching out to women who are our primary target market," said Lisa Chiff, National Sales Manager, Glory Foods Inc.

"However, our concern here is to support a program of action that can enhance the quality of life for all women and their families," adds Chiff.

Glory, which began its involvement with NCNW through the Black Family Reunion Celebrations, pledged a three-year donation totaling \$25,000.

Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president and founder of NCNW, has a formidable task ahead of her in the next three years. She will be aided in her efforts by a fund-raising committee that includes Dr. Maya Angelou (chair) and co-chairs, Dr. Camille Cosby and Susan Taylor of Essence Magazine.

Theresa Potter who heads the fund-raising initiative on behalf of Glory Foods and serves on the NCNW Corporate Advisory Council, echoed similar sentiments.

"We support this collective mission, and we stress continually that when consumers buy Glory Foods products, they are in fact supporting a wider investment effort that impacts the development of programs and resources that service their communities."

"We are committed to this philosophy, and our relationship with NCNW is an example of this commitment in action."

### Business Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
**MARTINSVILLE**—The Somerset County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual meeting and satirical roast at the Martinsville Inn. For more info call 908-725-1552.

**BLOOMFIELD**—The Regional Business Partnership will hold a Holiday Reception at the Forest Hills Field Club from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. For more info call 201-242-6237, extension 222.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
**NEW BRUNSWICK**—A free seminar on small claims court will be held from 7 pm to 9 pm at the New Jersey Law Center. For more information call 908-249-5500.

**WEST WINDSOR**—A "Community Assistance Seminar," also called the "SBA Takes the Loan Program on the Road" will be presented at Mercer County Community College. For more info call 609-586-4000, extension 685.

**DECEMBER 12-19**  
**JERSEY CITY**—Hudson County Community College's Department of Continuing Education will present a course entitled "Marketing Methods for the Travel Industry." The 3 session course begins on December 12, and runs through December 19. The course is a part of a program leading to a Travel Counselor Certificate. For more info call 201-714-2107.

**THROUGH DECEMBER 14**  
**JERSEY CITY**—Jersey City State College will offer a preparatory course for the State of New Jersey Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Exam. For more info call 201-200-3089.

The Quality Learning Series presents training via satellite from the US Chamber of Commerce, with "Competing in the Digital Economy" by Don Tapscott. For more info call 1-800-835-4730.

**DECEMBER 16-19**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MD**—The National Association of Minority Contractors will present an educational training workshop on underground storage tanks. The 4 day workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn. For more info call 201-242-6237, extension 225.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
**NEWARK**—The Regional Business Partnership will invite all to celebrate the holiday season by taking a Victorian Tour of Newark Museum's Ballantine House, from 8 to 9:30 am. For more info call 201-242-6237, extension 225.

## Irvington business seminar a triumph

**IRVINGTON**—Irvington's Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) program has spawned a lot of interest in doing business in the municipality. The UEZ held a business development seminar on November 14, that attracted an audience of about 90.

In her address to kick off the event, Mayor Sara B. Bost said, "This event is just one in a succession of steps we have taken to bring economic revitalization to Irvington."

In just a few short months, since gaining designation as an Urban Enterprise Zone, we have made remarkable progress in our goal—to help ensure that our citizens have opportunities for financial freedom.

Representatives from the NJ Economic Development Authority



Mayor Sarah Bost of Irvington

(NJEDA) and the NJ Department of Labor covered a variety of topics, including financing options targeted to aspiring and current business owners.

Keynote speaker Bryan K. Finnie, director of the NJEDA's Financial Programs Division, said the financial body's key function is to "assist in the revitalization of the community," whether it be through large-scale projects, such as the emerging NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark, or via its Entrepreneurial Training Initiative (ETI) for potential business owners.

According to Finnie, the ETI serves clients unable to obtain money from traditional funding sources. After completion of the eight-week program, participants present their business outlines to a panel of professionals, including bankers and CPAs, who determine the feasibility of the plans. Graduates can apply for financing through the NJ Department of Labor for Small Businesses, Minorities' and Women's Enterprises.

The Irvington UEZ office plans to co-sponsor an ETI workshop beginning on January 22, 1997.

A seminar on the NJ Contractors Assistance Program (NCAP) will be held in the spring. The NCAP offers training courses and consultations with experienced construction industry executives to help small contractors get performance bonds, and to bid successfully on major construction projects.

UEZ Coordinator Lorelei N. Motese, responding to the tremendous audience turnout and response to the event, said, "It is clear that the seminar provided our business community with the vital information and resources they need."

Fleet Bank of Irvington served as corporate sponsor of the seminar.

## Code of conduct

Continued from page 1

"We all see the tension, and we endorse the Urban League's call to the President to bring this problem forward into a summit," said U.S. Congressman William J. Coyne of Pennsylvania.

"Police need more training in conflict resolution, all police supervisors, especially street supervisors, must be held accountable, and misconduct must bear a zero level of tolerance," said Ira Harris, executive director, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NOBLE).

NOBLE represents nearly 3,000 of the nation's black law enforcement officials. "A climate has been created where white officers really aren't afraid of reprisals for their actions."

"We need equal protection and dignity, under the law," said Rev. Sykes of St. Petersburg, FL. "We do not need police harassment added to the multiple problems we already face."

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Gloucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
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